

|                               |                 |              |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>Notice of Allowability</b> | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|                               | 10/082,254      | BROWN ET AL. |
|                               | Examiner        | Art Unit     |
|                               | Devesh Khare    | 1623         |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to 2/27/2004.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-33.
3.  The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All b)  Some\* c)  None of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

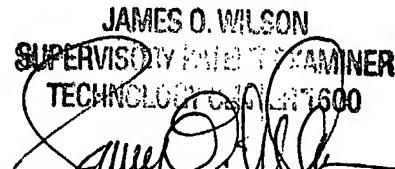
\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 2/25/2002
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 7/8/2004.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

JAMES O. WILSON  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600  


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Applicant's amendments and response filed on 02/27/04 are acknowledged. Claims 1,20,31 and 33 have been amended. Claims 34-47 have been cancelled. The terminal disclaimer filed over prior U.S. Patent no. 6,365,731 has been entered. The Election of Species requirement of the Office Action mailed on 11/18/2003 has been withdrawn. Claims 9,10, 16 and 17 have been rejoined with the pending claims. The rejection of claims 1-8, 11-15 and 18-33 under 35 U.S.C., second paragraph, has been overcome through applicants' amendment to the claim.

Claims 1-33 are currently pending in this application.

Claims 1-33 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: A method of stripping a nucleic acid probe from a sample nucleic acid by cleaving said sample nucleic acid by an enzyme is disclosed in the issued U.S. Patent 6,365,731, is assigned to the assignee of this invention and Claims 1-33 of the present invention recite a method of stripping a nucleic acid probe from a sample nucleic acid or a method of removing a nucleic acid probe from a sample nucleic acid by cleaving said sample nucleic acid with iodine, hydroxyl ion, an enzyme, a particular wave length of light or temperature, is not taught or fairly suggested by the prior art of the record.

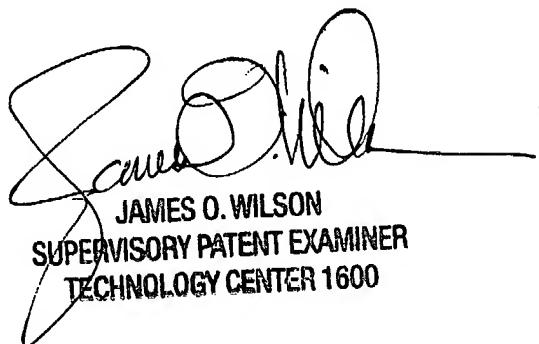
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany

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the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1235.

Devesh Khare, Ph.D.,J.D.  
Art Unit 1623  
July 9,2004



JAMES O. WILSON  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600